

HOUSE BILL 864
By Bowers

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 43, relative to the development of industrial hemp seed as a state resource.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 43, is amended by adding Sections 2 through 6 inclusive of this act as a new, appropriately designated chapter.

SECTION 2. This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Tennessee Strategic Industrial Hemp Seed Development Act of 1999".

SECTION 3. The general assembly finds that the development of industrial hemp seed varieties suitable for agriculture in the United States is in the best interest of Tennessee and that the development of varieties of industrial hemp should be carried out in Tennessee. The purpose of this chapter is to create economic and technological advantages for Tennessee in response to future industry and agriculture demands.

SECTION 4. As used in this chapter, unless clearly required otherwise:

(1) "Industrial hemp" means any variety of *Cannabis sativa* L. with a delta-9 tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) concentration which does not exceed one percent (1%) on a dry weight basis and that meets the standards set forth in Canada and Europe; and

(2) "Commissioner" mean the commissioner of agriculture.

SECTION 5. The commissioner of agriculture is authorized to promulgate rules and regulations to effectuate the purposes of this act. All such rules and regulations shall be

promulgated in accordance with the provisions of Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 4, Chapter 5.

SECTION 6. Any applicable agribusiness located in Tennessee is authorized within the rules and regulations set forth by the commissioner to develop industrial hemp seed varieties suitable for propagation in the United States. The development of industrial hemp seed varieties shall be conducted with the approval and under the supervision of the commissioner.

SECTION 7. The importing and transportation of industrial hemp seed from Europe and/or Canada to the approved agribusiness facility shall be acceptable with the approval and under the supervision of the commissioner.

SECTION 8. For the purposes of promulgating rules and regulations, this act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it. For all other purposes, this act shall take effect April 30, 1999, the public welfare requiring it.